THE SOUTH AMERICAN WAR.

Causes and Commencement of the Struggle.

WAITING FOR THE END.

Graphic Description of the Capture of Pisagua.

MAGNIFICENT FIGHTING.

IQUIQUE, Peru, Nov. 13, 1879.

It is now about eight months since the trouble between Peru and Chile began. The immediate cause of the conflict of the two States was the violation of a treaty regarding the management of certain nitrate mines by the Bolivians. Bolivia is a small State lying between Chile and Peru. It has a high, steep sea coast, with but one seaport, and that not a very good one. In the southern part of Peru, all through Bolivia and the northern portion of Chile, are rich nitrate mines. Nitre, from which is obtained saltpetre, is the great export and source of wealth of the country. The Bolivians were too poor, lazy and inefficient to work their own mines, and rented them to an enterprising Chilean company. It was stipulated by the two governments that the Chileans should work the mines and improve the shipping facilities by fixing the harbor and removing many of its obstructions. In consideration of this Bolivia exempted the company from all taxation. For some time this plan worked without trouble, until Bolivia, wishing to raise some funds, taxed the mining companies. And this violation of their agreement by the Bolivians, so say the Chileans, brought on the war that is now waging. On the other hand, the Bolivians claimed that the harbor was not being improved sufficiently, and moreover the Chileans were assuming an unjustifiable authority and trying to control the country. Both parties in my opinion, are to blame. Regarding the imposition of the tax, there can be no doubt; regarding the other point, writers differ. Hence the war. It will be wondered what Peru has to do with this affair, and very reasonably too, for nobody seems to comprehend the eagerness with which she interfered.

THE FORTUNES OF WAR.

Till recently the Peruvians, with the Huascar, have been victorious. They sunk a wooden frigate, whipped a sloop-of-war and captured many prizes. During this time the two Chilean iron-clads were being thoroughly repaired. As soon as they were ready they attacked the Huascar off Mejillones and most thoroughly whipped her. But the full particulars of this fearful engagement have already been widely published, and people have shuddered as they read of the brave captain of the Huascar—how he was shot away, blown right through the turret, not a trace of him left behind save a few scattered teeth. I will not picture to you again the ladders and passages of the Huascar, so piled and choked with bloody corpses that men could not get into the ship to stop the engines. By the capture of the Huascar Peru lost her mainstay on the ocean. After the engagement the prize was towed into Valparaiso, where she is being refitted, soon to appear against her former owners. It was about the 1st or October the Huascar was lost, and immediately everybody in Peru went into mourning. The two monitors of Peru are kept for harbor defence—one at Callao, which everybody knows the Chileans do not intend to attack; the the other at Arica, also a place which the Chileans will not attack. All the transports and the fast wooden sloop-of-war Union remain at Callao, all ready for action, because there will be no action. About the 1st of this month the Chilean fleet put into a place in Peru called Pisagua, where there was a small Peruvian force. This fleet landed from twelve to sixteen thousand men under cover of their guns, who charged up a steep, sandy mountain and gained the place. By this bold stroke Chile has gained a strong foothold on Peruvian soil. The reason for the Chileans' delay in making this landing was the necessity of thoroughly drilling and disciplining their men. For the last two or three months this force has been drilled regularly by competent officers, and they will in a day or two show the benefit of this training.

CHILEANS PREPARED.

To go on with the war the Chileans are splendidly equipped, their artillery is of the newest and best, likewise their arms and ammunition. They have also several Gatling guns. After gaining the heights of Pisagua the army moved eastward and then southward, intending to march to this place, Iquique. To oppose this army are two armies—one of 10,000 men, moving from Iquique toward them, and another of 6,000 Bolivians marching from the northward. The Chileans are thus to be surrounded. But they will doubtless come out all right, as the opposing armies are badly disciplined and badly equipped. However, this is to be the decisive battle. If the Chileans win the war is virtually over. The possession of this port, the great nitre depot and the controlling of the mines are all that Chile wants. Why the Peruvians will fight it out is understood when we recollect that the whole source of the wealth of their country and their country itself are at stake. If, in the approaching battle, the Peruvians are defeated they will flee to this place. Then the fleet of Chile, now forty miles away, will come in and bombard the place.

I have been on shore from our ship and walked through the deserted streets of Iquique. The few people remaining in the town stay on shore in the daytime, but spend their nights on board the merchantmen in the harbor. On every side evidences of poverty and degradation are seen. The people have the longest and most sorrowful faces imaginable. They fear every hour to hear news of the defeat of their army and the entrance of the harbor by the Chilean men-of-war and the bombardment of their city. They lead a life of anxious waiting and know not the events of the next hour. The Chilean force is at present crossing the sandy desert between the two places, while the Peruvians are awaiting the attack. The distance between the two places is about thirty miles. At present the Chileans are within fifteen miles of the Peruvians.

THE CAPTURE OF PISAGUA—GRAPHIC NARRATIVE OF AN EYE WITNESS—A DESPERATE CHARGE AND SPLENDID FIGHTING BY THE CHILEANS.

PISAGUA, Peru, Nov. 8, 1879.

Since the loss of the Huascar, one month ago, the Chileans have been gathering troops and vessels for a descent upon Peruvian territory. So well had the secret of their destination been kept that the allies scarcely knew of their embarkation before the fleet was before Pisagua. For months past Pisagua had been pretty heavily garrisoned; but, as the apprehension of an attack upon either Arica or Iquique increased, these troops were gradually reduced in numbers until but 900 Bolivians remained. For batteries there was one 100-pounder Parrott; breastworks and rifle pits there were none. The sole population were soldiers, and the town, most of which was burned in the bombardment of April 17, offered scanty shelter. Inhabitants, in the ordinary sense of the word, there were none. The railroad was still in good condition, but the warehouses for the storage of nitrates were demolished. Pisagua in itself could be of but trifling value to either party, but its position between Arica and Iquique, its railway into the interior, and the harbor, all combined to render it of great value as a base of operations, and its easy acquisition will prove of great advantage to the Chileans. The coast range rises abruptly behind the town to an elevation of 2,000 feet, and both railroad and carriage road have recourse to zigzags to overcome the grade. In many places the hillsides slope over fifty degrees, and it looks impossible for any man to ascend their sandy sides. So steep were these slopes and so easy defensible that it was no part of the original plan of attack to ascend them, but as is often the case the impetus of the assault carried the men onward without a stop, and the Chilean infantry charged the hill as though advancing over a level plain.

APPEARANCE OF THE CHILEANS.

The Chilean army was embarked at Antofagasta, and the transports, escorted by three men-of-war, appeared in the offing at seven o'clock upon the morning of the 2d of November. The bombardment of the battery ashore began at half-past seven, and in less than fifteen minutes the 100-pounder had been struck and abandoned by its crew. The Bolivians ashore, finding the fire too warm, left the town and lined the rocks along the water front. The firing of the Chileans was very accurate, and their shells were dropped over the heads of the Bolivians with wonderful precision. By eight A. M. the fire from shore had virtually ceased, and the signal was made for the transports to come in. The original plan for the landing contemplated merely the occupation of the beach and town until a force of 2,500 men landed at Junin, four miles below, had had time to turn the heights. It will be seen that the ardor of the Chilean troops rendered this unnecessary. Just to the northward of the town are two small sandy coves, offering a safe landing for boats, while elsewhere rocks and reefs would quickly stave any boat. The Bolivians knowing of this lined the sides of these coves and waited quietly the approach of the boats. By some error in starting one large launch containing some seventy-five troops, was far in advance of the other boats. Upon this launch, was poured the fire of all the troops ashore, and forty dead and wounded were the penalty for this error. But a few moments elapsed, however, before the other boats had gained their position and dashed forward. The Bolivians did not wait their landing, but slowly retreated up the hill, halting and firing continually. Wherever the railroad offered a breastwork a brief stand was made, but in no case was the delay prolonged to a hand to hand contest. While this running fight was in progress the men-of-war were shelling the retreating Bolivians over the heads of the Chilean advance. The precision with which the shells were dropped was wonderful, and their effect upon the enemy was extremely demoralizing. After the engagement one could easily trace the successive stages of the combat by the fragments of exploded shell in their vicinity.

THE ATTACK.

The Chilean advance was made in skirmish order, and from the moment of landing until the crest of the hill was gained there was neither halt nor delay. Although the taking of the hill had formed no part of the plan of attack it was impossible to restrain the men, and the assault was urged with an enthusiasm that could not fail to carry the day. About half way to the crest the Bolivians made a last stand, and here the fight was hot for a short quarter of an hour, but just as it seemed as though the advance was checked the fire of the defenders suddenly ceased, and the soldiers, breaking into a run, abandoned the fight. An incident characteristic of the Bolivians occurred at this point. Three of their men were scrambling up the hill, when, a shell bursting over their heads, one fell back wounded. His companions endeavored for a time to assist him, but finding it impossible to help him to the top one of the soldiers deliberately aimed his gun and blew out the brains of the wounded man. Despite the hot fire of the Chileans not one Bolivian was taken prisoner, and not one of the wounded survived the fight. Furthermore, though the bayonet was not used during the action many of the dead were found on the day following pierced with bayonet thrusts. We have learned since the action that the cause of the sudden cessation of firing by the Bolivians was the giving out of their ammunition, the reserve store being located ten miles inland. The Chilean loss was about one hundred and forty dead and wounded. The Bolivian loss will never be known, as the dead were tossed, uncounted, into large trenches. From the beginning to the end of the engagement there were but 1,000 Chileans landed; and, despite the very efficient aid of the guns of the fleet, it is greatly to their credit that they drove an equal force up the steep hill that overlooks the town.

LANDING OF THE TROOPS.

No sooner were the heights secured than the active disembarkation of the expeditionary army began. In forty-eight hours 16,000 infantry, 1,200 cavalry, thirty Krupp steel field guns and six Gatlings were safely landed. The Chileans have every reason to feel proud of this exploit. The troops thus placed upon Peruvian soil are of fine physique and amply provided with arms and accoutrements. As for clothing, the creases are not yet out of the seams, the shoes were worn for the first time, and in this instance it was true that not even a gaiter button was wanting. The commissariat was well supplied, and the only want felt was the lack of potable water. Upon the morning of the 4th inst. some wells upon the pampas were captured and the fears of a water famine dispelled. The plan of the campaign now undertaken is, first, the acquisition of the Pisagua Railroad and the capture of Tarapaca. From Tarapaca across country to the line of the Iquique road is twenty-seven miles, and at the head of the Iquique road is the station called Pozo Almonte, or the "Well of Almonte." From this well or pool is now drawn the greater part of the water supply of Iquique by means of four inch pipes. It this supply can be cut off and at the same time distilling at Iquique stopped by threats of a bombardment, the city must fall through a water famine.

THE PERUVIAN FORCES.

The Peruvian forces immediately available comprise some eight thousand men that have already left Iquique for Pozo Almonte, and 5,000 more of Bolivians and Peruvians that are now marching from Arica. Should the Chileans succeed in preventing a junction of these armies their numerical superiority and preponderance of artillery will give them an immense advantage in the attack. The country between Tarapaca and Pozo Almonte is a wilderness of sand hills and ravines, and the Peruvians claim that the Chilean army will be lost in its deserts. From Pozo Almonte to Iquique is a sandy pampa, and offers a fine field for battle. The Chileans expect a further reinforcement of cavalry, and doubtless before a decisive engagement occurs every available man will be in the field. The Peruvians, shut off from sea transport, must march their forces overland, and, taken unawares as they have been, any considerable increase in their numbers is not to be looked for. Should the Peruvians succeed in checking the enemy in the mountain defiles the campaign may yet be favorable to them; but once the open plain is gained, the superior discipline, better organization and greater determination of the Chileans is sure to prevail.

HOW "SOUTHERN OUTRAGES" ARE MANUFACTURED.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18, 1879.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

The *Inter-Ocean* of Chicago recently published an alleged interview with one John Jackson, "an intelligent contraband, just arrived in that city" from Charleston, S. C., in which said Jackson narrates at great length his harrowing experiences before and after emancipation at the hands of "his master, Governor Wade Hampton." The following specimen extracts will very well suffice to indicate the character of the whole story, and will, perhaps, suggest to many minds the evident purposes of the publication, which has been greedily and widely copied by the republican press of the Northwest:—

Jackson was born of slave parentage on a plantation near Columbia, S. C. In the year 1856 his master, Charles A. Logan, sold him to Wade Hampton for $1,900. The ex-slave describes the Governor of South Carolina as a very hard master, cruel and relentless, treating his slaves as inhumanly as did any of the Legrees of Southern chivalry. On one occasion he, an mechanic to Hampton, was carrying the horses in the stable when his owner entered. Taking a handkerchief from his pocket he passed it over a horse's hide, and, finding the linen slightly soiled thereby, he gave Jackson a blow that sent him reeling to the ground.

At Hampton's plantation, known as "Gadsden's Turnout," there were some two hundred slaves, who were worked early and late and "for all they were worth." The overseer was a white man and had a colored subordinate, known as "the driver," whose duty it was to turn the negroes out before daybreak, keep them at work under the lash during the day and keep watch with a leash of bloodhounds at night to prevent escapes.

After the war things changed in name only with the slaves in South Carolina. Their condition was, according to this witness, changed very little from the days when the lash was the strongest argument and the bloodhound the last court of appeal. Before leaving Mr. Hampton's plantation he witnessed the flogging of a colored woman by a white overseer, and further states that the colored women of the Hampton mansion were frequently whipped at the request of the white young ladies and for the most trivial causes.

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"But you get paid for your labor nowadays, don't you?" "Yes," said Jackson, with a sardonic smile. "If you'll take it in stuff and promises." He explains that each freedman is engaged to work for wages at from $15 to $30 a month and board. When the laborer asks for money the overseer will tell him that he has none to give him, but offers him "orders" on the plantation store, where the poorest articles are sold at the highest prices. Jackson gave some specimens of prices current, which never vary:—Potatoes at $3 50 bushel, meal, $1 50 a bushel; flour at $10 50 barrel; molasses, 75 cents a pint; 35 cents to 40 cents a pound for sugar, and 50 cents to 60 cents a pound for bacon, and 75 cents to $1 for ham. Dry goods are sold on a like scale—75 cents per yard for calico which sells here for 20 cents. If the unfortunate laborer should reject this method of giving "a fair wage for a fair day's work," and, should he be importunate, he is said to be "sassy" and is punished with the cowhide.

With his own labor Jackson raised four bales of cotton, for which his employer or master agreed to pay him $200. He paid him $25 cash and "promised" the balance, which is unpaid to this day. This is not an exceptional case; the freedmen cannot get an honest wage or honest treatment from the white men of South Carolina. When the ex-slaves wish to leave the plantations they are compelled to sell their live stock at merely nominal prices, and are glad enough to escape with their lives.

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Of his own escape from the embraces of a "solid South" the facts make a thrilling story, the proofs of his sufferings being borne on his own body.

About ten o'clock one June morning he asked the overseer, one William Pickett, for the cash balance due him from Hampton. The balance was paid in kind by the overseer tying the Governor's creditor by the arms to a tree and lashing his back till it was drenched with blood. When the overseer was tired with this new way to pay Wade Hampton's debts he drove the creditor into the hoed to work. Sick and sore, with his back festering from the lash, the victim labored through the weary hours till the darkness gave an opportunity for the persecuted wretch to turn his face to the land whose people believe that humanity is better than "bonah, sah!" and liberty to men of all races is the highest issue of chivalry. Five miles from "Massa Wade's" place he met a friendly colored woman who washed his scarred back and gave ointment to heal the soreness. Journeying from her shanty he fell asleep and was aroused by the deep mouthed baying of "nigger dogs," as he calls the bloodhounds. Then ensued a race for dear life. To baffle the four legged brutes he took to the creek and waded far enough to accomplish that purpose. All of one long, dreadful night he fought off the dogs and early next day hid in a freight car and by short journeyings at night arrived at Charleston.

Jackson declares the colored people are anxious to leave for Kansas, but are closely watched and punished by the white men.

This plausible political indictment has been forwarded to Senator Hampton by some humane and honest truth seekers in the West, with a request that he should plead to the charges made against him. "You may state two facts, if you wish," he said to the writer of this, "in general reply to all that is here said about me. The first is that I have never owned a slave named John Jackson, nor ever employed 'a contraband' of that name on my 'plantation known as Gadsden's Turnout.' The second is that I have never had a plantation or any interest in a plantation at Gadsden or anywhere else in South Carolina. I have never planted outside of Mississippi. With these trifling corrections the interview may pass for what it is worth." X.

GOLD FROM EUROPE.

During the past week the arrivals of gold at this port from Europe were $1,011,650, of which $524,750 were deposited in the Assay Office. The arrivals of gold from August 12 to December 19, 1879, aggregate $72,684,600, of which $56,104,450 were deposited in the Assay Office.

CLUB OR GLOVE?

WITH WHICH DID OFFICER MOHR STRIKE A MAN WHO DIED SUBSEQUENTLY OF A FRACTURED SKULL?—AN EYE-WITNESS' STORY.

There died yesterday, in the Chambers Street Hospital, an unknown man, who, if the testimony of an eye-witness be reliable, was clearly the victim of a policeman's club. He was drunk, as most such victims are, and incapable of comprehending and answering the questions put to him by the officer, and for this inability, as the eye-witness avers, he was clubbed on both sides of the head till he fell on the sidewalk and fractured his skull. He was taken, Friday night, in a state of insensibility, to the Madison street police station, and subsequently removed to the Chambers Street Hospital, where he was received at twenty-five minutes past ten P. M. He expired yesterday morning at fifteen minutes to twelve, being all the time unconscious. He was a man about thirty-eight years of age and apparently belonging to the seafaring class, five feet eight inches in height, with light blue eyes, light hair and sandy beard and mustache. He wore a gray undershirt and drawers, a white shirt and over it one of blue flannel, brown pants and vest striped with red, a black overcoat and laced shoes. No papers or money were found on his person, either at the station house or in the hospital, and no marks were discovered on his clothing to lead to his identity. On the sergeant's blotter, after giving a description of his appearance and clothing, was the entry that he was brought to the station house by Officer John Mohr, at ten P. M., "unconscious from a wound in the back of the head, supposed to be from falling on the sidewalk."

THE STORY OF AN EYE-WITNESS.

George P. Gee, of No. 99 Madison street, a workman in the employ of Joseph Stiner, ten merchant, at No. 177 Chambers street, spoke as follows to a HERALD reporter about the case last evening:—"I was coming from a prayer meeting in the Baptist Church, corner of Gouverneur and Madison streets, about half-past nine o'clock Friday evening, when I heard a policeman talking out loud, and my attention was attracted. I heard him say to a man who was leaning against a signpost in front of him, and to all appearances drunk, 'If you don't tell me your name and where you live I'll knock all the teeth down your throat.' I stood and looked on, and I heard the officer ask the man again where he lived. The man seemed so stupid from drink as not to be able to answer. Then the policeman, when he wouldn't answer, hit him a hard blow with his club on the right side of the head, and the man took no more notice of it than to straighten up a little and say, 'You had no right to do that!' Then the policeman asked him again for his name, and, receiving no answer, hit him a far heavier blow than the first one on the left side of his head that might be heard a block off, and the man's legs gave way and he fell just as if he was shot, and the back of his head struck the flags and the blood spurted from his nostrils. There were two men besides myself standing by at the time, and the three of us tried to stand him on his feet, but it was no use. In the meantime the policeman went away for a handcart, and after trying two or three places came back with one. With the help of those around the unconscious man was put in and wheeled down to the station house. A man came up after the clubbing was over and sang out, 'What's the matter? Why, I heard the thud down on the other corner.'"

THE OFFICER'S STATEMENT.

Officer Mohr was asked last evening at the Madison street station house, "Where did you meet the man who was brought here last night with a fractured skull?"

"I saw him twenty minutes before he fell on the sidewalk, and then he was staggering along the sidewalk."

"Did you offer to arrest him?"

"I asked him who he was and where he lived, and told him to go home."

"What answer did he give you?"

"He told me it was none of my damned business."

"Where was he standing then?"

"He was leaning up against a signpost, swaying back and forth, and wouldn't move on."

"Is it true that while he was thus standing you struck him with your club on both sides of the head?"

"Nothing of the kind. I struck him with my glove, and he fell on the sidewalk."

"Only with your glove?"

"Nothing more. You see, the man was drunk, and when he fell the back of his head came in contact with the edge of the curbstone, and it was that finished him."

"A man who declares he was present says you hit him with your club two several times. How is that?"

"He don't know what he is talking about. The man was drunk and impertinent and giving sass, and, besides, the sidewalk was slippery from the snow, and that's what made him fall more than anything else. That's all I did—just to strike him with my glove."

"Did you see him come out of any drinking saloon on the street?"

"No; but one of the officers here says he saw a man answering to the description in Martin Reilly's saloon, corner of Madison and Market streets."

A call at Reilly's saloon failed to get any satisfactory information of the deceased, though a man somewhat resembling him in hair and eyes had been there the day before, but he was known to be still alive and well.

The Coroner will be at the Chambers Street Hospital to-morrow morning, and will take the testimony of the doctor as to the cause of death, and subsequently an inquest will be held. Should no friends or relative call to claim the remains in the meantime they will be removed to the Morgue.

MAD AS A MARCH HARE.

POLICEMAN KERNS SINGULAR DOINGS WHILE ON POST EXPLAINED—THE SADDEST PHASE OF THE PEDESTRIAN LUNACY.

Captain Mount, of the Nineteenth precinct, became convinced during the past week that Policeman Thomas F. Kerns was insane. He had noticed something eccentric in the officer's actions previously, but it was only recently, when Kerns struck down and severely injured young Jacob Holp while harnessing a horse at No. 353 Second avenue, that he came to inquire seriously into his subordinate's sanity. He was not left in doubt about it long. The man's associates in the force had had reason to believe him stark mad for many a day, but his mania took such a shape that they were led to believe it only an abnormal development of the popular pedestrian craze. The walking matches had turned the heads of a good many people and when Kerns calmly announced apocryphal records at plying the heel and toe they believed he was only indulging a kind of mendacity which was generally prevalent at the time. Often were the tired patrolmen awakened by ghostly footfalls in their dormitory, and they arose only to find Kerns tearing up and down at a gait that made them giddy to witness, and when at last word came that residents on Second avenue were kept in a state of constant excitement by his sudden spurts past their doorways he was removed from that locality and put on post in a more sequestered neighborhood on Madison avenue. The change wrought no permanent good. Visions of burglars in full retreat began to startle the denizens as they saw Kerns flitting by during the day, and at night the wayfarer was often frightened out of his life by the apparition of the flying patrolman flashing along his post like a meteor. At last a sergeant came upon him when he was going at full speed, and reported the phenomenon at the station house. The Captain called him to account, and he was not at all backward in explaining his position. He was to enter a six days' walking match, he said, and proposed walking 1,300 miles during its continuance, making twenty miles each hour he appeared on the track. Captain Mount sent for Police Surgeon Clemmens, who examined Kerns and decided he was not fit to go on post. He was relieved from duty then, and nothing was heard of him till yesterday afternoon, when his successor on Second avenue saw him flying over the ground between Fiftieth and Fifty-eighth streets, to the astonishment and admiration of all dwellers on the route.

MAKING THE CIRCUIT OF THE PARK.

He was taken to the station house and there talked wilder and more incoherently than ever.

"I am sure of winning now," he said, to Captain Mount, in a frenzy of delight. "I was up to the Park to-day—made a hundred and fifty laps around it sleek as you please."

Then he pulled a diagram out of his pocket showing the ground traversed and the record of his tramps over it. "Come down and see me, boys," he called out to the sergeant. "I won't disgrace the old Nineteenth, you bet. Just put all your pile on me an' you'll come out winners. I'm going to pocket every cent that's put up against me, and I'll fetch the belt up and hang it over the case yonder, and don't you forget it."

Assured of the inexpediency of allowing the man to be at large, Captain Mount borrowed his pistol under some pretence and prepared to take him to court, but Kerns slipped out and was discovered threatening a tailor, whose shop adjoins the station house, because he had discovered a disposition to escape the rehearsal of the pedestrian's prowess. He accompanied the Captain to the Yorkville Police Court quietly enough, and there Court Officer Muldoon engaged him in conversation while his case was being explained to the magistrate. He waxed quite discursive there and revealed to his listeners an ingenious plan he had for pocketing what money was in the pools.

"I am going into this with heavy backers," he said. "Mr. Babbitt, alone, is putting up $150,000 on me. Now, here's my little racket. The first day I'll go 150 miles. That'll be an eye-opener. But I'll funk on the second, pretend my ankle's sprained and let little Rowell go ahead. That'll take every one in and they'll ante up the ducats on him as lively as they know how. That'll be my pie, boys. I'll catch every bet, and when I've got the pools all safe, I'll start in and not let up till I've done 600 miles. How's that, boys? You can bet I'll do it too. I've Johny McMahon for my trainer, and I'm going to walk in a silk suit, with a blue sash and a pair of Oxford ties, with a patent spring in the ankle. That's my style. I'm no new beginner, either. When I was seven years old I ran to Bridgeport and home again, seventy miles, for a pound of butter for my mother, and I did it in four hours."

Kerns was then taken into Justice Smith's room, who, not to alarm him, introduced a friend of his as a possible backer. The latter inquired about the man's sanitary condition, which he said was excellent, and then agreed to back him heavily, stipulating, however, that he would submit to an examination at the hands of Dr. Hardy, of the City Prison, to see if he was perfectly sound. He agreed to this and started with the Captain for the Tombs, but nearly crippled the latter at the pace he kept on his way down Centre street. Once in the Tombs the Captain coaxed him to give over his shield and keys, and Dr. Hardy on examining him pronounced him fairly demented. From a corridor which he had been traversing at a rattling gait he was removed to a cell, but its narrow confines did not a whit abate his pedestrian ardor, and he was pacing about it for hours after his confinement.

THE POLICEMAN'S RECORD.

Kerns is a married man with two children, and resided at No. 1,052 Second avenue. He was appointed on the police in 1873, and has served in the Twenty-first and Nineteenth precincts. His brother states that eleven years ago he had an attack of insanity, and had to be shut up in an asylum for a while. For his recent and unprovoked assault on Jacob Holp he was tried on a charge of drunkenness, and the Commissioners reserved their decision.

THE CARE OF THE INSANE.

ERRORS OF LAYMEN IN DISCUSSING THE MANAGEMENT OF ASYLUMS—CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMERICAN SPECIALISTS TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF NERVOUS DISEASES.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19, 1879.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

In your issue of yesterday appears an account of a meeting held last evening for the ostensible purpose of changing the Lunacy laws of this State, and questioning the administration of various State and city asylums.

This meeting was addressed by two or three gentlemen well known to the community as vigilant and active reformers, but I am sure on this occasion their better judgment did not assert itself. On the contrary, their efforts were pledged to the support of an ill-advised and unwarranted attack upon the competency of several universally respected public officials, such attack being inspired by certain hot-headed and jealous men, and I regret to say of the profession to which I have the honor to belong.

I do not desire to appear at this time in the light either of an apologist or champion, for there appear to be no charges worthy of notice to explain away, and I feel quite sure that Drs. Gray, Macdonald and other superintendents are perfectly capable of taking care of themselves. There were, however, certain statements made at the meeting at Cooper Institute which were so obviously founded upon superficial observations, and undoubtedly arose from the false reasoning certain laymen are apt to indulge in when they attempt to experiment to their own satisfaction with medical or other sciences, of which they know little or nothing, that I feel constrained to direct attention to many discrepancies in statistical and other information advanced by some of the speakers whose motives were well-meaning, but injudicious.

The Rev. Dr. Storrs, for instance, presented statistics in regard to the curability of insanity, and stated that the percentage of cures was not as great as it was years ago, wrongly insinuating that this falling off was due to improper and imperfect asylum treatment. Any one familiar with the subject and study of mental diseases (and I refer to physicians) will realize that the importation of new elements of society, foreign vice, as well as great and alarming changes in American life and morals (intemperance included), nervous diseases of an incurable type, of which little was known fifteen or twenty years ago, are becoming exceedingly rife and on the increase. It must also be remembered that the advances in neurological science of late years are such as to enable superintendents of asylums to distinguish and deny admission to cases of curable functional nervous diseases, hysteria and acute affections presenting mental symptoms, thus making the percentage of cures appear to be greater. Other persons than those interested in this movement who would visit any of our asylums would find that a large proportion of cases were those presenting symptoms of organic nervous disease or chronic insanity, which in but few instances are curable conditions. Equally unfair is the comparison drawn between curable general diseases and disorders of the brain, for any person of but limited education will realize the serious character of all affections of the nervous system.

The statements of the medical speaker upon the occasion are so unfair and unjust to the superintendents he attacks that their denial is hardly necessary. It is only proper to refute them, however, *in toto* by a general denial, and any inquiring person may satisfy himself as to their insincere character by a visit to any of the asylums, where there has never been shown the least secrecy or concealment. I have personally visited the asylums complained of and find that there is no "herding" together of acute and chronic cases such as has been spoken of; that there are hospital wards; that all the chronic male patients who may be safely trusted are daily occupied in outdoor manual work, such as has been advocated by the best alienists in this country and in Europe.

As to the charge of professional incompetency upon the part of superintendents, there is no proof that such exists other than the unsupported statements of disappointed aspirants for office and discharged officials and nurses. The medical journals of Great Britain and the Continent fully attest as to the valuable scientific work of many of the American superintendents; and as to the suggestions in regard to debarring physicians who have been assistants for years in asylums from the privilege of promotion to the post of superintendent, it strikes the writer that persons who have derived extensive practical experience are naturally better qualified for the office than a medical man from outside who possesses at best but theoretical acquirements. The latter person is the speaker's ideal of the proper man for the place.

As one of the orators stated at the meeting, agitation of this kind is productive of the worst results so far as the feelings of the public at large are concerned, and the sensational articles that have recently appeared in the papers have already had their evil effects, for I am told by a very distinguished physician, and doubtless others could give the same experience, that one of his patients has been made insane by these published sensational articles. In conclusion it might be stated that the efforts of these, I trust, sincere reformers may be better employed in keeping people out of the asylums. Dr. Tuke, in one of his attractive essays upon insanity, shows us not only that the statistics in regard to the increase of insanity are erroneous, but that a fair comparison by figures, of the amount, extent, curability and mortality of modern insanity and that of fifty years ago is impossible; that data indicating an increase have much to do with its present treatment and the longevity of the insane. He also proves, as do others, that certain causes of insanity in Great Britain, which also have much to do with its continuance, exist to a tenfold extent in this country; and it is not surprising that the proportion of cures is, perhaps, less than elsewhere. What we really need are more extensive accommodations, which are already, however, being provided, and salaried assistants who will find it an object to remain at asylums in which they may be interested. Speaking generally it may be said also that we need intelligent discussion of the best methods of treatment of the insane and a heartier sympathy with those who are professionally charged with their care. The task of such members of the medical profession is no easy one, and their responsibilities are not light. But they will not be helped to discharge those responsibilities by sweeping criticism, which implies, if it has not the courage directly to charge, widespread inefficiency and neglect, and which retard the efforts of men who have devoted a lifetime to the cause of the insane with obloquy or suspicion.

ALLAN McLANE HAMILTON, M. D.

THE CENTAL SYSTEM.

A special committee was appointed some time ago by the grain trade of the Produce Exchange to confer with the Board of Managers, with the object of compromising on the subject of the cental system. After the first call yesterday Mr. J. H. Herrick submitted the report of the committee, of which the following is the concluding paragraph:—

It is not competent for the grain trade to discuss the merits of the cental system. That issue has not yet been presented. When the necessary Congressional and legislative action is taken in behalf of the cental system, making it general throughout the country; when Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Louis, Toledo, Detroit, Baltimore, Philadelphia and other Boards of Trade adopt it simultaneously with New York, and all quotations from leading markets are in centals, the experiment may be successful, but until that time the grain trade of New York should not have imposed upon it the burden of attempting to establish such a radical change. In conclusion the grain trade of New York are unalterably opposed to attempting the establishment of the cental system until the co-operation of the other principal Boards of Trade of the country can be secured, and will deal only upon the basis of the bushel, except as it may be forced to do in the cental, at the calls, under constraint of the Board of Managers, and by reason of the pressure of rules adopted by the Board, but to which the grain trade is almost unanimously opposed.

A resolution was then unanimously adopted approving of the report, and ordering that a copy of the same be sent to the Board of Managers and also to the various commercial exchanges throughout the country.

DISEASED MEAT.

Sanitary Inspector Brennan yesterday seized several tons of diseased meat and fish in Washington Market. The raid was made by order of Sanitary Superintendent Dr. Day at the request of Mayor Cooper. A day or two ago the Health authorities were informed by letter from the Mayor that large quantities of diseased meat and fish were being retailed at Washington Market. The receipt of the complaint from Mayor Cooper caused quite a stir among the health officials and resulted in yesterday's raid. The persons in whose possession the property seized was found will be arrested on Monday.

ORDINATION DAY.

INTERESTING CEREMONIES IN THE PROVINCIAL SEMINARY AT TROY—TWENTY-ONE NEW PRIESTS, TWO DEACONS AND TWENTY SUB-DEACONS.

The Ember days brought to Troy, N. Y., the usual influx of guests to witness the ceremonies of ordination at the Provincial Seminary, where, yesterday, twenty-one of the students received the highest honors of the priesthood, two were ordained deacons and twenty were made sub-deacons, two were promoted to minor orders and four received tonsure after having made a preparatory retreat under the direction of the Rev. Robert Fulton, S. J., president of Boston College. The altars were decorated in the usual manner, with lights and flowers, and at the appointed hour the long line of candidates entered the chapel, each one vested in or carrying the robes corresponding to the dignity which he was about to receive and carrying a lighted candle in his right hand. Forming in rank on either side of the chapel the candidates awaited the entrance of the Right Rev. F. McNeirny, D. D., Bishop of Albany, who celebrated the mass and conferred the degrees. After the usual preliminary prayer the Bishop robed himself in the pontifical vestments, and, after the "Kyrie," began the investiture of the candidates for the minor orders, clerics, porters, readers, exorcists and acolytes. Up to the sub-deaconship the orders are not binding to the absolute service of the Church, but when the candidate takes one step forward as a sub-deacon he has "put his hand to the plough" and there is no looking back. Here all the candidates for the three higher orders—priesthood, deacon and sub-deaconship—prostrate themselves before the altar, while the Bishop intones the Litany of the Saints, the clergy who are present as assistants making the responses. No instrumental accompaniment detracts from the solemnity of this grand chant of the Litany, where hundreds of well trained voices rise and fall in the supplicating cadence of the "Miserere nobis" and the "Ora pro nobis," until the Bishop invokes the triune blessing, when the sweetly melancholy strains of the "Agnus Dei" complete this suppliant chant. The Bishop then invokes the Spirit to descend upon these servants of God, and as each in succession kneels before him he bestows the robes of office—amice, maniple and tunic—and allows them to touch the book of the Epistles.

The deacons then kneel before the altar while the Bishop places his right hand upon the head of each one, invoking the Holy Ghost to confirm them, so that they may abound in the practice of every virtue. He next invests each one with the stole and dalmatic and causes them to touch the book of the Gospels.

EXHORTATION AND ADMONITION.

The Bishop then exhorts the candidates for the holy Order of priesthood and admonishes them that it is with great fear they should ascend to so great a dignity. Concluding the admonition the Bishop silently places both of his hands upon the head of each candidate as he kneels before him, after which all of the clergy present do the same and then stand facing the altar, with the right hand extended toward the candidates, while the Bishop, with his right hand also extended, invokes the multiplicity of heavenly gifts upon those who kneel before the altar. The Bishop then adjusts the stole across the breast of each candidate and puts the chasuable over his head, allowing the back part to remain rolled up. After intoning the "Veni Creator," which is continued by the choir, the Bishop anoints the hands of each candidate and allows them to touch the paten and the cup of the chalice, after which they recite the remainder of the mass in unison with the Bishop. Pronouncing the words of consecration distinctly at the same time as the Bishop they exercise for the first time the power of the priest and recite the "Confiteor." The Bishop again placing his hands upon the head of each one, confers the power of absolution, unfolds the chasuable, and taking the hands of each new priest between his own, receives his promise of obedience to the authority vested in the Cardinal-Archbishop of the diocese. At the conclusion of the mass the Bishop intoned the "Te Deum," which was taken up and sung by the assembled clergy and those who had received holy orders.

Following are the names of those who were ordained:—

PRIESTS.

Archdiocese of New York—Revs. Charles Antoni, Joseph W. Brennan, John J. Brophy, James M. Byrnes, Luke A. Costello, Michael Haran, John A. Kellner, Patrick H. McCabe and John A. Wolff.

Archdiocese of Boston—Revs. Charles F. Cowen, Thomas L. Flanagan, Thomas Moylan, James H. O'Neil, Dennis P. O'Sullivan and William A. Ryan.

Diocese of Springfield—Revs. Daniel F. Feehan, Michael J. Howard, John J. McMahon and Denis A. Shea.

Diocese of Hartford—Rev. Charles J. McElroy.

Diocese of Ogdensburg—Rev. Peter J. Devlin.

DEACONS.

Archdiocese of New York—Rev. James J. McCarthy.

Archdiocese of Boston—Rev. John J. Gillen.

SUB-DEACONS.

Archdiocese of New York—Revs. John B. Creeden, James P. Cummiskey, Thomas J. McCluskey, James J. McLaughlin and Peter F. Magann.

Diocese of Boston—Revs. John F. Broderick, Patrick H. J. Callanan, Daniel J. Collins, James J. Fitzgerald, William J. Millerick, Michael J. O'Donnell and Ambrose F. Roche.

Diocese of Albany—Revs. Peter P. Blass and Joseph A. Lanahan.

Diocese of Rochester—Revs. John J. Carroll, Dennis J. Curran, Michael A. F. Holmes and Francis F. Rippin.

Diocese of Hartford—Rev. William J. Doolan.

MINOR ORDERS.

Archdiocese of New York—Mr. Thomas J. Quinn and Mr. James C. Rigney.

PROMOTED TO TONSURE.

Archdiocese of Boston—Mr. Michael J. Egan.

Diocese of Albany—Mr. John F. Howard and Mr. James L. Walsh.

Diocese of Hartford—